

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 EUR-25 RSR-01 /121 W

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R 270830Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1573

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L THESSALONIKI 0469

ATHENS PASS PAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: STAMATOPOULOS BERATES "MAKEDONIA"

REF: THESSALONIKI'S 422 AND 423.

JOINT CONGEN/USIS MESSAGE

1. USIS HAS OBTAINED COPY OF PRIVATE LETTER FROM UNDER SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER (PRESS) VYRON STAMATOPOULOS TO EDITOR OF OPPOSITION DAILY "MAKEDONIA", IN WHICH HE TAKES JOURLA SEVERELY TO TASK FOR ALLEGED BIAS IN SELECTION OF NEWS ITEMS, AND THREATENS LEGAL ACTION.

2. STAMATOPOULOS ALLEGES THAT MAKEDONIA "CENSORS" ITS POLITICAL STORIES AND FAILS TO INCLUDE ANY WHICH FAVOR "CHANGE OF REGIME". WHILE PAPER HAS "RIGHT" TO CAMPAIGN FOR "NO" VOTE, TO PUBLISH ARTICLE WHICH TERMS REGIME "PRESIDENTIAL DICTATORSHIP" IS "PENALTORT" WHICH MUST BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF "PROSECUTING JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES", HE WRITES. PLEDGING TO DEFEND "AS MUCH AS I CAN" RIGHT OF PRESS TO PRESENT OPPOSITION VIEWS, AND TO GUARD PUBLISHERS AND JOURNALISTS AGAINST UNDUE CENSORSHIP AND TERRORISM, STAMATOPOULOS SAYS THAT ON OTHER HAND PUBLICATION IN "MAKEDONIA" OF ARTICLES OF

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THOSE ACCUSED OF "VIOLENCE, FORGERY, OR EVEN MURDER" IS

POLITICAL IRRESPONSIBILITY. HE CLOSES WITH GREETINGS
AND "DEEP BITTERNESS" TO OWNER-PUBLISHER IOANNIS VELIDES.

COMMENT: THIS APPARENTLY SEALS END OF "MAKEDONIA'S" BRIEF
FLIRTATION WITH GOG AND STAMATOPOULOS, FEATURED BY LATTER'S
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IN JULY 8 EDITION (REFTELS). STAMATOPOULOS
WRATH EVIDENTLY DIRECTED TOWARD "MKEDONIA" PUBLICATION OF
FULL STATEMENT OF 85 EX-CU DEPUTIES JULY 20, IN ADDITION TO
PURSUIT OF ITS TRADITIONALLY HOSTILE LINE. WHETHER HE AND
GOVERNMENT WILL ACTUALL INSTITUTE THREATENED LEGAL ACTION
REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

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